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Twenty-third special session
Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mónica **Martínez** (Ecuador)

Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action

Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

Addendum

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered various paragraphs of the proposed outcome document of the twenty-third special session (A/S-23/2/Add.2 (Part IV and Corr.1)) at its ___ meeting, on 9 June 2000.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 102 (h) was amended to read:

"Develop, review and implement laws and procedures to prohibit and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls";

(b) Paragraph 102 (i) was amended to read:

"Take measures, including programmes and policies, to ensure that maternity, motherhood, parenting and the role of women in procreation are not used as a basis for discrimination nor restrict the full participation of women in society";

(c) Paragraph 102 (j) was deleted;

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(d) Paragraph 103 (b) was amended to read:

"Treat all forms of violence against women and girls of all ages as a criminal offence punishable by law, including violence based on all forms of discrimination";

(e) Paragraph 105 (a) was merged with paragraph 137 (c) to become paragraph 104 (e) and amended to read:

"Provide protection and support to women and their respective families and develop and strengthen policies to support family security";

(f) Paragraph 107 (a) was amended to read:

"Adopt policies and implement measures to address, on a prioritized basis, the gender aspects of emerging and continued health challenges, such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other diseases having a disproportionate impact on women's health, including those resulting in the highest mortality and morbidity rates";

(g) Paragraph 107 (a) *bis* was amended to read:

"Ensure that the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality is a health sector priority and that women have ready access to essential obstetric care, well-equipped and adequately staffed maternal health-care services, skilled attendance at delivery, emergency obstetric care, effective referral and transport to higher levels of care when necessary, post-partum care and family planning in order to, *inter alia*, promote safe motherhood, and give priority attention to measures to prevent, detect and treat breast, cervical and ovarian cancer and osteoporosis, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS";

(h) Paragraph 107 (a) *ter* was amended to read:

"Take measures to meet the unmet needs in good quality family planning services and in contraception, namely regarding the existing gap in services, supplies and use";

(i) Paragraph 107 (b) was amended to read:

"Collect and disseminate updated and reliable data on women's health, including mortality and morbidity of women, and conduct further research regarding how social and economic factors affect the health of girls and women of all ages, as well as research about the provision of health-care services to girls and women and the patterns of their use of such services and the value of disease prevention and health promotion programmes for women";

(j) Paragraph 107 (c) was merged with paragraph 125 (i);

(k) Paragraph 107 (d) was amended to read:

"Ensure universal and equal access for women and men throughout the life-cycle, to social services related to health care, including education, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security and health education programmes";

(l) Paragraph 107 (d) *bis* was amended to read:

"Ensure the provision of safe working conditions for health-care workers";

(m) Paragraph 107 (e) was merged with paragraph 115 (a) *ter*;

(n) Paragraph 107 (f) was replaced by paragraph 107 (a) *ter*;

(o) Paragraph 107 (g) was amended to read:

"Adopt, enact, review and revise, where necessary or appropriate, and implement health legislation, policies and programmes, in consultation with women's organizations and other actors of civil society, and allocate the necessary budgetary resources to ensure the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, so that all women have full and equal access to comprehensive, high-quality and affordable health care, information, education and services throughout their life cycle, to reflect the new demands for service and care by women and girls as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and new knowledge about women's needs for specific mental and occupational health programmes and for the ageing process, and to protect and promote human rights by ensuring that all health services and workers conform to ethical, professional and gender-sensitive standards in the delivery of women's health services, including by establishing or strengthening, as appropriate, regulatory and enforcement mechanisms";

(p) Paragraph 107 (g) *bis* was amended to read:

"Eliminate discrimination against all women and girls in access to health information and education, health care and health services";

(q) Paragraph 107 (g) *quater* was amended to read:

"Design and implement programmes to encourage and enable men to adopt safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour, and to effectively use methods to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS";

(r) Paragraph 107 (g) *quinter* was amended to read:

"Take all appropriate measures to eliminate harmful, medically unnecessary or coercive medical interventions, as well as inappropriate medication and overmedication of women, and ensure that all women are properly informed of their options, including likely benefits and potential side effects, by properly trained personnel";

(s) Paragraph 107 (h) was amended to read:

"Adopt measures to ensure non-discrimination against and respect for the privacy of those living with HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, including women and young people, so that they are not denied the information needed to prevent further transmission of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections and are able to access treatment and care services without fear of stigmatization, discrimination or violence";

(t) Paragraph 107 (j) was amended to read:

"Promote and improve comprehensive gender-specific tobacco prevention and control strategies for all women, particularly adolescent girls

and pregnant women, which would include, *inter alia*, education, prevention and cessation programmes and services, and the reduction of people's exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and support the development of the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control";

(u) Paragraph 107 (j) *bis* was amended to read:

"Promote or improve information programmes and measures concerning treatment for the elimination of the increasing substance abuse among women and adolescent girls, including information campaigns about the risks to health and other consequences and its impact on families";

(v) Paragraph 108 (a) was deleted.

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Rapporteur: Mónica **Martínez** (Ecuador)

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Addendum

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered various paragraphs of the proposed outcome document of the twenty-third special session (A/S-23/2/Add.2 (Part IV and Corr.1)) at its ____ meeting, on 9 June 2000.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 115 (a) was amended to read:

"Adopt a holistic approach to women's physical and mental health throughout the life cycle, take further measures to redesign health information, services and training for health workers in order to make them gender-sensitive, promote gender balance at all levels of the health-care system, and reflect women's perspective and right to privacy, confidentiality and voluntary and informed consent";

(b) Paragraph 115 (a) *bis* was amended to read:

"Reinforce efforts to ensure universal access to high-quality primary health care, throughout the life cycle, including sexual and reproductive health care, not later than 2015";

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(c) Paragraph 115 (a) *ter* was amended to read:

"Review and revise national policies, programmes and legislation to implement the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-first special session,[1] paying particular attention to achieving the specific benchmarks to reduce maternal mortality, to increase the proportion of births assisted by skilled attendants, to provide the widest achievable range of safe and effective family planning and contraceptive methods and to reduce young people's risk of HIV/AIDS";

(d) Paragraph 115 (b) was merged with paragraph 115 (a);

(e) Paragraph 115 (c) was amended to read:

"Strengthen measures to improve the nutritional status of all girls and women, recognizing the effects of severe and moderate malnutrition, the life-long implications of nutrition and the link between mother and child health, by promoting and enhancing support for programmes to reduce malnutrition, such as school meal programmes, mother-child-nutrition programmes and micronutrient supplementation, giving special attention to bridging the gender gap in nutrition";

(f) Paragraph 115 (d) was amended to read:

"Review, with the full participation of women, and monitor the impact of health sector reform initiatives on women's health and their enjoyment of human rights, in particular with regard to rural and urban health service delivery to women living in poverty, and ensure that reforms secure full and equal access to available, affordable and high-quality health care and services for all women, taking into account the diverse needs of women";

(g) Paragraph 115 (e) was merged with paragraph 115 (a);

(h) Paragraph 115 (f) was deleted;

(i) Paragraph 115 (f) *bis* was amended to read:

"Design and implement programmes, with the full involvement of adolescents, as appropriate, to provide them with education, information and appropriate, specific, user-friendly and accessible services, without discrimination, to address effectively their reproductive and sexual health needs, taking into account their right to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent and the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents and legal guardians to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in conformity with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and ensuring that in all actions concerning children the best interests of the child are a primary consideration";

"These programmes should, *inter alia*, build the self esteem of adolescent girls and help them take responsibility for their own lives, promote gender equality and responsible sexual behaviour, raise awareness about and prevent

[1] General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.

and treat sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, and sexual violence and abuse, and counsel adolescents on avoiding unwanted and early pregnancies";

(j) Paragraph 115 (g) was amended to read:

"Design and implement programmes to provide social services and support to pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers, in particular to enable them to continue and complete their education";

(k) Paragraph 115 (h) was amended to read:

"Give particular attention to developing and improving access to improved and new technologies and to safe and affordable drugs and treatments to meet women's health needs, including, *inter alia*, cardiopulmonary diseases, hypertension, osteoporosis and breast, cervical and ovarian cancer, and family planning and contraceptive methods for both women and men";

(l) Paragraph 118 (b) *bis* was amended to read:

"Promote programmes to enable women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities, and to encourage men to share equally with women household and childcare responsibilities";

(m) Paragraph 118 (b) *ter* was amended to read:

"Develop or strengthen policies and programmes to support the multiple roles of women in contributing to the welfare of the family in its various forms, which acknowledge the social significance of maternity and motherhood, parenting and the role of parents and legal guardians in the upbringing of children and caring for other family members. Such policies and programmes should also promote shared responsibility of parents, women and men and society as a whole in this regard";

(n) Paragraph 119 (a) was merged with paragraph 137 (a) to become new paragraph 129 (a) *bis*;

(o) Paragraph 125 A was amended to read:

"Design and strengthen poverty eradication strategies, with the full and effective participation of women, that reduce the feminization of poverty and enhance the capacity of women and empower them to meet the negative social and economic impacts of globalization";

(p) Paragraph 125 C was amended to read:

"Identify and implement development-oriented and durable solutions that integrate a gender perspective into external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, including least-developed countries, *inter alia*, through debt relief, including the option of official development assistance debt cancellation, in order to help them to finance programmes and projects targeted at development, including the advancement of women";

(q) Paragraph 125 D was amended to read:

"Take measures, with the full and effective participation of women, to ensure new approaches to international development cooperation, based on

stability, growth and equity, with the enhanced and effective participation and the integration of developing countries in the globalizing world economy, geared towards poverty eradication and the reduction of gender-based inequality within the overall framework of achieving people-centred sustainable development";

(r) Paragraph 125 (i) was amended to read:

"In partnership, as appropriate, with relevant institutions, promote, improve, systematize and fund the collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and other appropriate factors, on health and access to health services, including comprehensive information on the impact of HIV/AIDS on women, throughout the life cycle";

(s) Paragraph 125 (i) *bis* was amended to read:

"Eliminate gender biases in biomedical, clinical and social research, including by conducting voluntary clinical trials involving women, with due regard for their human rights, and in strict conformity with internationally accepted legal, ethical, medical, safety and scientific standards, and gather, analyse and make available to appropriate institutions and to end-users, gender-specific information about dosage, side-effects and effectiveness of drugs, including contraceptives and methods that protect against sexually transmitted infections".

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Rapporteur: Mónica **Martínez** (Ecuador)

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Addendum

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered various paragraphs of the proposed outcome document of the twenty-third special session (A/S-23/2/Add.2 (Part IV)) at its ____ meeting, on 9 June 2000.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 51 *bis* was deleted;

(b) Paragraph 107 (g) *ter* was replaced by paragraphs 94, 95 and 96 of the Beijing Platform for Action;

(c) Paragraph 121 (c) was deleted;

(d) Paragraph 130 (c) was amended to read:

"Increase awareness and knowledge of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which affirms that rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization and other forms of sexual violence constitute war crimes and, in defined circumstances, crimes against humanity, with the aim of preventing such crimes from occurring; take measures to support prosecution of all persons responsible for such crimes and provide avenues for redress to victims; and also increase awareness of the extent to which such crimes are used as a weapon of war";

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(e) Paragraph 132 (e) was amended to read:

"Encourage, through the media and other means, a high level of awareness of the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women, some of which increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, and intensify efforts to eliminate such practices";

(f) Paragraph 132 (f) was amended to read:

"Take the necessary measures to protect individuals, groups and organs of society engaged in promoting and protecting women's rights";

(g) Paragraph 132 (g) was amended to read:

"Encourage States parties to continue to include a gender perspective in their reports to the treaty bodies; also encourage these bodies to continue to take into account a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping of their work; and further encourage human rights mechanisms to continue to take a gender perspective into account in their work";

(h) Paragraph 133 (f) was amended to read:

"Consider signing and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court";

(i) Paragraph 133 (n) was amended to read:

"Take measures to ensure the protection of refugees, especially women and girls, and their access to and the provision of gender-sensitive appropriate basic social services, including education and health";

(j) Paragraph 137 (a) was merged with paragraph 119 (a);

(k) Paragraph 137 (b) was inserted as paragraph 133 (k);

(l) Paragraph 133 (k) was amended to read:

"Provide support to and empower women who play an important role within their families as stabilizing factors in conflict and post-conflict situations";

(m) Paragraph 137 (c) was merged with paragraph 105 (a) and inserted as paragraph 104 (e);

(n) Paragraph 138 (a) was amended to read:

"Promote programmes for healthy active ageing that stress the independence, equality, participation and security of older women, and undertake gender-specific research and programmes to address their needs";

(o) Paragraph 138 (b) was merged with paragraph 115 (c);

(p) Paragraph 138 (c) was amended to read:

"As a matter of priority, especially in those countries most affected, and in partnership with NGOs, wherever possible, intensify education, services and community-based mobilization strategies to protect women of all ages from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including through the

development of safe, affordable, effective and easily accessible female-controlled methods, including methods such as microbicides and female condoms that protect against sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS; voluntary and confidential HIV testing and counselling, and the promotion of responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and condom use; and the development of vaccines, simple low-cost diagnosis and single-dose treatments for sexually transmitted infections";

(q) Paragraph 138 (d) was amended to read:

"Provide access to adequate and affordable treatment, monitoring and care for all people, especially women and girls, infected with sexually transmitted infections or living with life-threatening diseases, including HIV/AIDS and associated opportunistic infections, such as tuberculosis; provide other services, including adequate housing and social protection, including during pregnancy and breastfeeding; assist boys and girls orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic; and provide gender-sensitive support systems for women and other family members who are involved in caring for persons affected by serious health conditions, including HIV/AIDS";

(r) Paragraph 138 (e) was merged with paragraph 138 (d);

(s) Paragraph 138 (f) was deleted;

(t) A new paragraph was added at the end, reading:

"Encourage partnerships between Governments and NGOs in the implementation of commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women and other United Nations world conferences and summits in order to promote gender equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century."

often victims of violence. Issues related to prevention, mother-to-child transmission of HIV, breastfeeding, information and education in particular of youth, curbing high-risk behaviour, intravenous drug users, support groups, counselling and voluntary testing, partner notification and provision and high cost of essential drugs have not been sufficiently addressed. There are positive signs in the fight against HIV/AIDS in some countries that behavioural changes have occurred among young people, and experience shows that educational programmes for young people can lead to a more positive view on gender relations and gender equality, delayed sexual initiation and reduced risk of sexually transmitted infections."

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Addendum

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered paragraphs 104 (a) and 105 (a) of the proposed outcome document of the twenty-third special session (A/S-23/2/Add.2 (Part IV) and Corr.1) at its _____ meeting, on 9 June 2000.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 104 (a) was amended to read:

"Take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour in order to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation, with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing the perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures";

(b) Paragraph 105 (a) was amended to read:

"Provide protection and support to women and their respective families and develop and strengthen policies to support family security".

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1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered paragraphs 5 and 13 of the proposed outcome document of the twenty-third special session (A/S-23/2/Add.2 (Part II)) at its _____ meeting, on 9 June 2000.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 5 was amended to read:

"*Obstacles*: Many factors have contributed to widening economic inequality between women and men, including income inequality, unemployment and deepening of poverty levels of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. Debt burdens, excessive military spending, inconsistent with national security requirements, unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, armed conflict, foreign occupation, terrorism, low levels of official development assistance and the unfulfilled commitment to strive to fulfil the yet to be attained internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for overall official development assistance and 0.1½ per cent to 0.2 per cent for the least developed countries, as well as the lack of efficient use of resources, among other factors, can constrain national efforts to combat poverty. In addition, gender inequalities and disparities in economic power-sharing, unequal distribution of

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unremunerated work between women and men, lack of technological and financial support for women's entrepeneurship, unequal access to, and control over, capital, particularly land and credit and access to labour markets, as well as harmful, traditional and customary practices, have constrained women's economic empowerment and exacerbated the feminization of poverty. Fundamental economic restructuring experienced by countries with economies in transition has led to lack of resources for poverty-eradication programmes aimed at empowerment of women";

(b) Paragraph 13 was amended to read:

"*Obstacles*: Peace is inextricably linked to equality between women and men and development. Armed and other types of conflicts, wars of aggression, foreign occupation, colonial or other alien domination, as well as terrorism, continue to cause serious obstacles to the advancement of women. The targeting of civilians, including women and children, the displacement of people, and the recruitment of child soldiers in violation of national or international law, by State and/or non-State actors, which occur in armed conflicts, have had a particularly adverse impact on gender equality and women's human rights.

"Armed conflict creates or exacerbates the high level of female-headed households, which in many cases are living in poverty.

"The underrepresentation, at all levels, of women in decision-making positions, such as special envoys or special representatives of the Secretary-General, in peacekeeping, peace-building, post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction, as well as the lack of gender awareness in these areas, presents serious obstacles.

"There has been a failure to provide sufficient resources and to adequately distribute those resources, to address the needs of increasing numbers of refugees, who are mostly women and children, particularly to developing countries hosting large numbers of refugees. International assistance has not kept pace with the increasing number of refugees.

"The growing number of internally displaced persons and the provision of their needs, in particular women and children, continue to represent a double burden to the affected countries and their financial resources. Inadequate training of personnel dealing with the needs of women in situations of armed conflict or as refugees, such as a shortage of specific programmes that address skills training and healing of women from trauma, remains a problem.

"Excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures, trade in arms and investment for arms production, taking into consideration national security requirements, direct the possible allocation of funds away from social and economic development, in particular for the advancement of women.

"In several countries, economic sanctions have had social and humanitarian impacts on the civilian population, in particular women and children.

"In some countries, the advancement of women is adversely affected by unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women and children.

"In situations of armed conflict, there are continued violations of human rights of women, which are violations of fundamental principles of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. There has been an increase in all forms of violence against women, including sexual slavery, rape, systematic rape, sexual abuse and forced pregnancies in situations of armed conflict. Displacement compounded by loss of home and property, poverty, family disintegration and separation and other consequences of armed conflict are severely affecting the population, especially women and children. Girls are also abducted or recruited, in violation of international law, into situations of armed conflict, including, *inter alia*, as combatants, sexual slaves or providers of domestic services."

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Addendum

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered paragraphs 30 *quater*, 30 *quater bis* and 41 of the proposed outcome document of the twenty-third special session (A/S-23/2/Add.2 (Part III)) at its _____ meeting, on 9 June 2000.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 30 *quater* was deleted;

(b) Paragraph 30 *quater bis* was deleted;

(c) Paragraph 41 was amended to read:

"The changing context of gender relations, as well as the discussion on gender equality, has led to an increased reassessment of gender roles. This has further encouraged a discussion on the roles and responsibilities of women and men working together towards gender equality and the need for changing those stereotypical and traditional roles that limit women's full potential. There is a need for balanced participation between women and men in remunerated and unremunerated work. Failure to recognize and measure in quantitative terms the unremunerated work of women, which is often not valued in national accounts, has meant that women's full contribution to social and economic

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development remains underestimated and undervalued. As long as there is insufficient sharing of tasks and responsibilities with men, the combination of remunerated work and care-giving will lead to the continued disproportionate burden for women in comparison to men."

women, including women migrant workers. Many women are also particularly affected by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases and various forms of violence against women";

(b) Paragraph 120 (e) *bis* was deleted;

(c) Paragraph 125 E was amended to read:

"Take steps with a view to the avoidance of and refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular women and children, that hinders their well-being and that creates obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being and their right to food, medical care and the necessary social services. Ensure that food and medicine are not used as tools for political pressure";

(d) A new paragraph was inserted after paragraph 125 E *bis*, to read as follows:

"Take urgent and effective measures in accordance with international law, with a view to alleviating the negative impact of economic sanctions on women and children."

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Addendum

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered paragraph 2 *bis* of the proposed outcome document of the twenty-third special session (A/S-23/2/Add.2 (Part I)) at its _____ meeting, on _____ June 2000.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the paragraph, without brackets, and recommended it to the special session for adoption.

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Addendum

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered paragraphs 4 and 12 of the proposed outcome document of the twenty-third special session (A/S-23/2/Add.2 (Part II)) at its _____ meeting, on 10 June 2000.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) In paragraph 4, the bracketed text was deleted;

(b) Paragraph 12 was amended to read:

"*Achievements*: There is a wider recognition that armed conflict has different destructive impacts on women and men and that a gender-sensitive approach to the application of international human rights law and international humanitarian law is important. Steps have been taken at the national and international levels to address abuses against women, including increased attention to ending impunity for crimes against women in situations of armed conflict.

"The work of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has been an important contribution to addressing violence against women in the context of armed conflict.

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"Also of historical significance is the adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court, which provides that rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization and other forms of sexual violence are war crimes when committed in the context of armed conflict and also, under defined circumstances, crimes against humanity.

"Women's contribution in peace-building, peacemaking and conflict resolution is being increasingly recognized. Education and training on non-violent conflict resolution have been introduced. Progress has been made on the dissemination and implementation of the guidelines for the protection of refugee women, and on addressing the needs of displaced women. Gender-based persecution has been accepted as a basis for refugee status in some countries. There is recognition by Governments, the international community and organizations, in particular the United Nations, that women and men experience humanitarian emergencies differently, and there is a need for a more holistic support for refugee and displaced women, including those who have suffered all forms of abuse, including gender-specific abuse, to ensure equal access to appropriate and adequate food and nutrition, clean water, safe sanitation, shelter, education, and social and health services, including reproductive health care and maternity care. There is greater recognition of the need to integrate a gender perspective in the planning, design and implementation of humanitarian assistance and to provide adequate resources. Humanitarian relief agencies and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, have played an increasingly important role in the provision of humanitarian assistance, as well as in the design, where appropriate, and implementation of programmes to address the needs of women and girls, including refugee and displaced women and girls in humanitarian emergencies, and in conflict and post-conflict situations."

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Rapporteur: Mónica **Martínez** (Ecuador)

Addendum

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered paragraphs 48, 48 *bis*, 107 (g) *ter*, 107 (i) and 121 of the proposed outcome document of the twenty-third special session (A/S-23/2/Add.2 (Part IV) and Corr.1) at its _____ meeting, on 9 June 2000.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 48 was deleted;

(b) Paragraph 48 *bis* was amended to read:

"Efforts should continue to be made for the promotion of respect for cultural diversity and dialogue among and within civilizations in a manner that contributes to the implementation of the Platform for Action, that aims at the empowerment of women and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women and that ensures that gender equality and the full enjoyment of all human rights by women are not undermined";

(c) Paragraph 107 (g) *ter* was amended to read:

"Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies that people are able to have a satisfying

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and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. Implicit in this last condition is the right of men and women to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are not against the law, and the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant. In line with the above definition of reproductive health, reproductive health care is defined as the constellation of methods, techniques and services that contribute to reproductive health and well-being by preventing and solving reproductive health problems. It also includes sexual health, the purpose of which is the enhancement of life and personal relations, and not merely counselling and care related to reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases.

"Bearing in mind the above definition, reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents and other consensus documents. These rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. It also includes their right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence, as expressed in human rights documents. In the exercise of this right, they should take into account the needs of their living and future children and their responsibilities towards the community. The promotion of the responsible exercise of these rights for all people should be the fundamental basis for government- and community-supported policies and programmes in the area of reproductive health, including family planning. As part of their commitment, full attention should be given to the promotion of mutually respectful and equitable gender relations and particularly to meeting the educational and service needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality. Reproductive health eludes many of the world's people because of such factors as inadequate levels of knowledge about human sexuality and inappropriate or poor-quality reproductive health information and services; the prevalence of high-risk sexual behaviour; discriminatory social practices; negative attitudes towards women and girls; and the limited power many women and girls have over their sexual and reproductive lives. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable because of their lack of information and access to relevant services in most countries. Older women and men have distinct reproductive and sexual health issues which are often inadequately addressed.

"The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. Equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for the integrity of the person, require mutual respect, consent and shared responsibility for sexual behaviour and its consequences."

(d) Paragraph 107 (i) was amended to read:

"In the light of paragraph 8.25 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which states:

> 'In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning. All Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to strengthen their commitment to women's health, to deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion[1] as a major public health concern and to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family-planning services. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must always be given the highest priority and every attempt should be made to eliminate the need for abortion. Women who have unwanted pregnancies should have ready access to reliable information and compassionate counselling. Any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process. In circumstances where abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe. In all cases, women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion. Post-abortion counselling, education and family-planning services should be offered promptly, which will also help to avoid repeat abortions',

consider reviewing laws containing punitive measures against women who have undergone illegal abortions";

(e) Paragraph 121 was deleted.

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[1] Unsafe abortion is defined as a procedure for terminating an unwanted pregnancy either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment lacking the minimal medical standards or both (based on World Health Organization, *The Prevention and Management of Unsafe Abortion*, Report of a Technical Working Group, Geneva, April 1992 (WHO/MSM/92.5)).